

PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney Docket No.: T8263.DIV

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

ART UNIT:

EXAMINER:

APPLICANT: Cheney, D.

SERIAL NO.:

FILED: October 29, 2001

FOR: VEHICLE STORAGE BOX WITH
SINGLE HINGED DOUBLE
SECURED COMPARTMENTS AND
DUAL ACTUATING CAM LATCHES

DOCKET NO.: T8263.DIV

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:


Preliminary to the examination of this application, please
enter this amendment.

PRELIMINARY
AMENDMENT

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on October 29, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,


Garron M. Hobson, Reg. No. 41,073

In the Title:

Please replace the title of the application with --VEHICLE STORAGE BOX WITH CLOSURE SYSTEM--.

In the Specification:

On page 1, line 1, insert --This is a division of Application Serial No. 09/465,507, filed December 16, 1999.--

Please cancel the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 2, and replace with the attached replacement paragraph.

Please cancel the paragraphs beginning on page 4, line 11, through the paragraphs ending on page 6, line 5, and replace with the attached replacement paragraphs. Specifically, the summary section of the application has been amended to be consistent with the claims.

In the claims:

Please cancel original claims 1-26 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 27-52 as attached.

REMARKS

Original claims 1-26 were presented in the parent application (Serial No. 09/465,507, filed December 16, 1999),

from which the present application is a continuation. Original claims 3, 4, 7, 9, 12, 16, 17, 20, 22 and 25 were allowable (Office Action mailed March 15, 2001).

Original claims 1-26 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 27-52 have been added without adding new subject matter. Support for the new claims is clearly found in the original claims, the drawings and the specification.

Specifically, new claim 27 is similar to original claim 14, but without the "divider" or "divider coupler" elements, and incorporates the allowable subject matter of original claim 16 and original, intervening claim 15. New claims 28-34 depend from claim 27.

New claim 35 is similar to original claim 1, but without the "divider" or "divider coupler" elements, and incorporates the allowable subject matter of original claim 3 and original, intervening claim 2. New claims 36-42 depend from claim 35.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicant believes that claims 27-52 are now in condition for allowance, and requests that the claims be passed to issue. If any impediment to the allowance of this claim remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is

strongly encouraged to call Garron M. Hobson at (801) 566-6633 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

DATED this 29 day of Oct, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,



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Clean Version of Replacement Paragraphs and Claims

In the Specification:

On page 1, line 1, insert --This is a division of
Application Serial No. 09/465,507, filed December 16, 1999.--

Please cancel the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 2, and
replace with the following replacement paragraph:

The present invention relates to utility vehicle storage
boxes. Specifically, the storage box has a cam latching design
which catches when the lid is open.

Please cancel the paragraphs beginning on page 4, line 11,
through the paragraphs ending on page 6, line 5, and replace with
the following replacement paragraphs:

It has been recognized that it would be advantageous to
develop a vehicle storage box with a latch that catches when the
lid is still open. In addition, it has been recognized that it
would be advantageous to develop a vehicle storage box which
facilitates closing and locking of an overfilled box.

The invention provides a vehicle storage box with a lid
pivotally connected to a base structure, and a lid coupler with a
first coupling position advantageously occurring when the lid is
in an opened position. The lid coupler is connected to the lid
and the base structure, and shaped to releasably couple the lid
to the base structure. The lid coupler includes a lid latch and
a lid actuator. The lid actuator advantageously includes a

hooking cam to engage the lid latch while the lid is in an opened position. Thus, as the lid actuator is rotated, the lid latch tracks along the hooking cam of the lid actuator while the lid is pulled down.

In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, the base structure is configured to attach to a vehicle, and has a length sized to fit between side walls of a truck bed.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, the lid actuator rotates substantially 180 degrees such that the lid latch is forced through cam action motion.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, the hooking cam includes a hook, a cam, and a notch. The notch is shaped and positioned to receive and retain the lid actuator when the lid is in a closed and secured position.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, the lid coupler includes first and second adjustable lid actuators, and first and second adjustable lid latches. The first and second lid actuators can be coupled together by a lid actuator connector for simultaneous operation of the first and second lid actuators. A cable and pulley system can include a pulley coupled to each of the lid actuators, and connected by a cable.

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, the first and second lid latches are substantially L-shaped

members having a latching point for engaging respectively the first and second lid actuators.

In the Claims:

Please cancel original claims 1-26 without prejudice, and add the following new claims 27-52:

27. (New) A vehicle storage box, comprising:

- a) a base structure;
- b) a lid, pivotally connected to the base structure, shaped to enclose the base structure; and
- c) a lid coupler, connected to the lid and the base structure, shaped to releasably couple the lid to the base structure, the lid coupler having a first coupling position occurring when the lid is in an opened position; and
- d) the lid coupler including a lid latch and a lid actuator; and
- e) the lid actuator including a hooking cam to engage the lid latch while the lid is in an opened position such that, as the lid actuator is rotated, the lid latch tracks along the hooking cam of the lid actuator while the lid is pulled down.

28. (New) The storage box of claim 27, wherein the base structure is configured to attach to a vehicle, and has a length sized to fit between side walls of a truck bed.

29. (New) The storage box of claim 27, wherein the lid actuator rotates substantially 180 degrees such that the lid latch is forced through cam action motion.

30. (New) The storage box of claim 27, wherein the hooking cam comprises a hook, a cam, and a notch, wherein the notch is shaped and positioned to receive and retain the lid actuator when the lid is in a closed and secured position.

31. (New) The vehicle storage box of claim 27, wherein the lid coupler comprises a first and second adjustable lid actuator and a first and second adjustable lid latch.

32. (New) The vehicle storage box of claim 31, wherein the first and second lid actuators are coupled together by a lid actuator connector for simultaneous operation of the first and second lid actuators.

33. (New) The vehicle storage box of claim 32, wherein the lid actuator connector comprises a cable and pulley system

wherein a pulley is coupled to each of the lid actuators and connected by a cable.

34. (New) The vehicle storage box of claim 27, wherein the first and second lid latches are substantially L-shaped members having a latching point for engaging respectively the first and second lid actuators.

35. (New) A storage box for use with vehicles comprising:

- a) a base structure;
- b) a lid, pivotally connected to the base structure, shaped to enclose a portion of the base structure; and
- c) lid coupling means, connected to the lid and the base structure, for releasably coupling the lid to the base structure, and having a first coupling position occurring when the lid is in an opened position; and
- d) the lid coupling means including a lid latch, coupled to the lid, and lid actuator means, rotatably coupled to the base structure, for engaging and latching the lid latch while in the first coupling position; and
- e) the lid actuator means including a hooking cam for facilitating closing and securing the lid to the base structure, the hooking cam on a lid actuator engages the lid latch while the lid is in an opened position such that, as

the lid actuator is rotated, the lid latch tracks along the hooking cam of the lid actuator wherein the lid is pulled down, the lid being securely closed upon complete travel of the lid latch along the hooking cam.

36. (New) The storage box of claim 35, wherein the base structure is configured to attach to a vehicle, and has a length sized to fit between side walls of a truck bed.

37. (New) The storage box of claim 35, wherein the lid actuator rotates substantially 180 degrees such that the lid latch is forced through cam action motion.

38. (New) The storage box of claim 35, wherein the hooking cam comprises a hook, a cam, and a notch, wherein the notch is shaped and positioned to receive and retain the lid actuator when the lid is in a closed and secured position.

39. (New) The storage box of claim 35, wherein the lid coupling means comprises a first and second adjustable lid actuator and a first and second adjustable lid latch.

40. (New) The storage box of claim 39, wherein the first and second lid actuators are coupled together by a lid actuator

connector for simultaneous operation of the first and second lid actuators.

41. (New) The storage box of claim 40, wherein the lid actuator connector comprises a cable and pulley system wherein a pulley is coupled to each of the lid actuators and connected by a cable.

42. The storage box of claim 39, wherein the first and second lid latches are substantially L-shaped members having a latching point for engaging respectively the first and second lid actuators.

43. (New) A vehicle storage box, comprising:

- a) a base structure;
- b) a lid, pivotally connected to the base structure, shaped to enclose the base structure; and
- c) a lid coupler, connected to the lid and the base structure, shaped to releasably couple the lid to the base structure, the lid coupler having a first coupling position occurring when the lid is in an opened position.

44. (New) The storage box of claim 43, wherein the base structure is configured to attach to a vehicle, and has a length sized to fit between side walls of a truck bed.

45. (New) The storage box of claim 43, wherein

a) the lid coupler includes a lid latch and a lid actuator; and

b) the lid actuator including a hooking cam to engage the lid latch while the lid is in an opened position such that, as the lid actuator is rotated, the lid latch tracks along the hooking cam of the lid actuator while the lid is pulled down.

46. (New) The storage box of claim 45, wherein the lid actuator rotates substantially 180 degrees such that the lid latch is forced through cam action motion.

47. (New) The storage box of claim 43, wherein

a) the lid coupler includes: 1) a lid latch coupled to the lid, and 2) a lid actuator, rotatably coupled to the base structure, to engage and latch the lid latch while in the first coupling position; and

b) the lid actuator including a hooking cam to facilitate closing and securing the lid to the base

structure, the hooking cam on the lid actuator engaging the lid latch while the lid is in an opened position such that, as the lid actuator is rotated, the lid latch tracks along the hooking cam of the lid actuator wherein the lid is pulled down, the lid being securely closed upon complete travel of the lid latch along the hooking cam, the lid actuator rotating substantially 180 degrees such that the lid latch is forced through cam action motion.

48. (New) The storage box of claim 47, wherein the hooking cam comprises a hook, a cam, and a notch, wherein the notch is shaped and positioned to receive and retain the lid actuator when the lid is in a closed and secured position.

49. (New) The vehicle storage box of claim 43, wherein the lid coupler comprises a first and second adjustable lid actuator and a first and second adjustable lid latch.

50. (New) The vehicle storage box of claim 49, wherein the first and second lid actuators are coupled together by a lid actuator connector for simultaneous operation of the first and second lid actuators.

51. (New) The vehicle storage box of claim 50, wherein the lid actuator connector comprises a cable and pulley system wherein a pulley is coupled to each of the lid actuators and connected by a cable.

52. (New) The vehicle storage box of claim 50, wherein the first and second lid latches are substantially L-shaped members having a latching point for engaging respectively the first and second lid actuators.